

5-POINT 3-12 WRITER'S RUBRIC

CONVENTIONS

5 The writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage, paragraphing) and uses conventions effectively. Errors tend to be so few that just minor touch-ups would get this piece ready to publish.

- A. Spelling is generally correct, even on more difficult words.
- B. The punctuation is accurate, even creative, and guides the reader through the text.
- C. A thorough understanding and consistent application of **capitalization** skills are present.
- D. Grammar and usage are correct and contribute to clarity and style.
- E. Paragraphing tends to be sound and reinforces the organizational structure.
- F. The writer may manipulate conventions for stylistic effect—and it works! The piece is very close to being ready to publish.

3 The writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard writing conventions. Conventions are sometimes handled well and enhance readability; at other times, errors are distracting and impair readability.

- A. Spelling is usually correct or reasonably phonetic on common words, but more difficult words are problematic.
- B. End punctuation is usually correct; internal punctuation (commas, apostrophes, semicolons, dashes, colons, parentheses) is sometimes missing/wrong.
- C. Most words are capitalized correctly; control over more sophisticated capitalization skills may be spotty.
- D. Problems with grammar or usage are not serious enough to distort meaning but may not be correct or accurately applied all of the time.
- E. Paragraphing is attempted but may run together or begin in the wrong places.
- F. Moderate editing would be required to polish the text for publication.

1 Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage, and grammar and/or paragraphing repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. The writing reflects more than one of these problems:

- A. Spelling errors are frequent, even on common words.
- B. Punctuation (including terminal punctuation) is often missing or incorrect.
- C. Capitalization is random and only the easiest rules show awareness of correct use.
- D. Errors in grammar or usage are very noticeable, frequent, and affect meaning.
- E. Paragraphing is missing, irregular, or so frequent (every sentence) that it has no relationship to the organizational structure of the text.
- F. The reader must read once to decode, then again for meaning. Extensive editing (virtually every line) would be required to polish the text for publication.

<i>Expectations should be based on grade level and include only skills that have been taught</i>
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